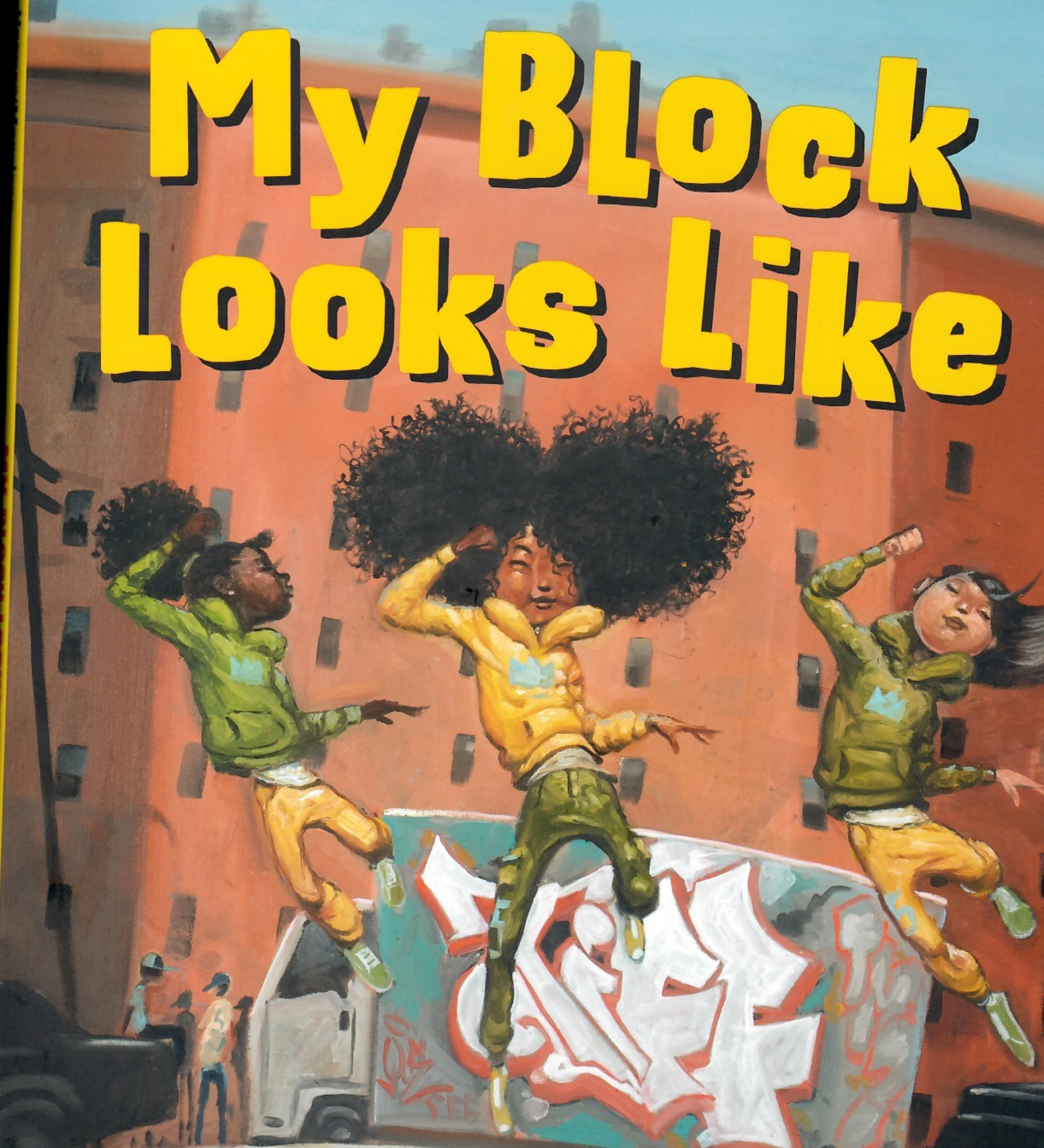
My Block Looks Like



Written by
Janelle Harper

Illustrated by
Two-Time Coretta Scott King Award Winner
Frank Morrison

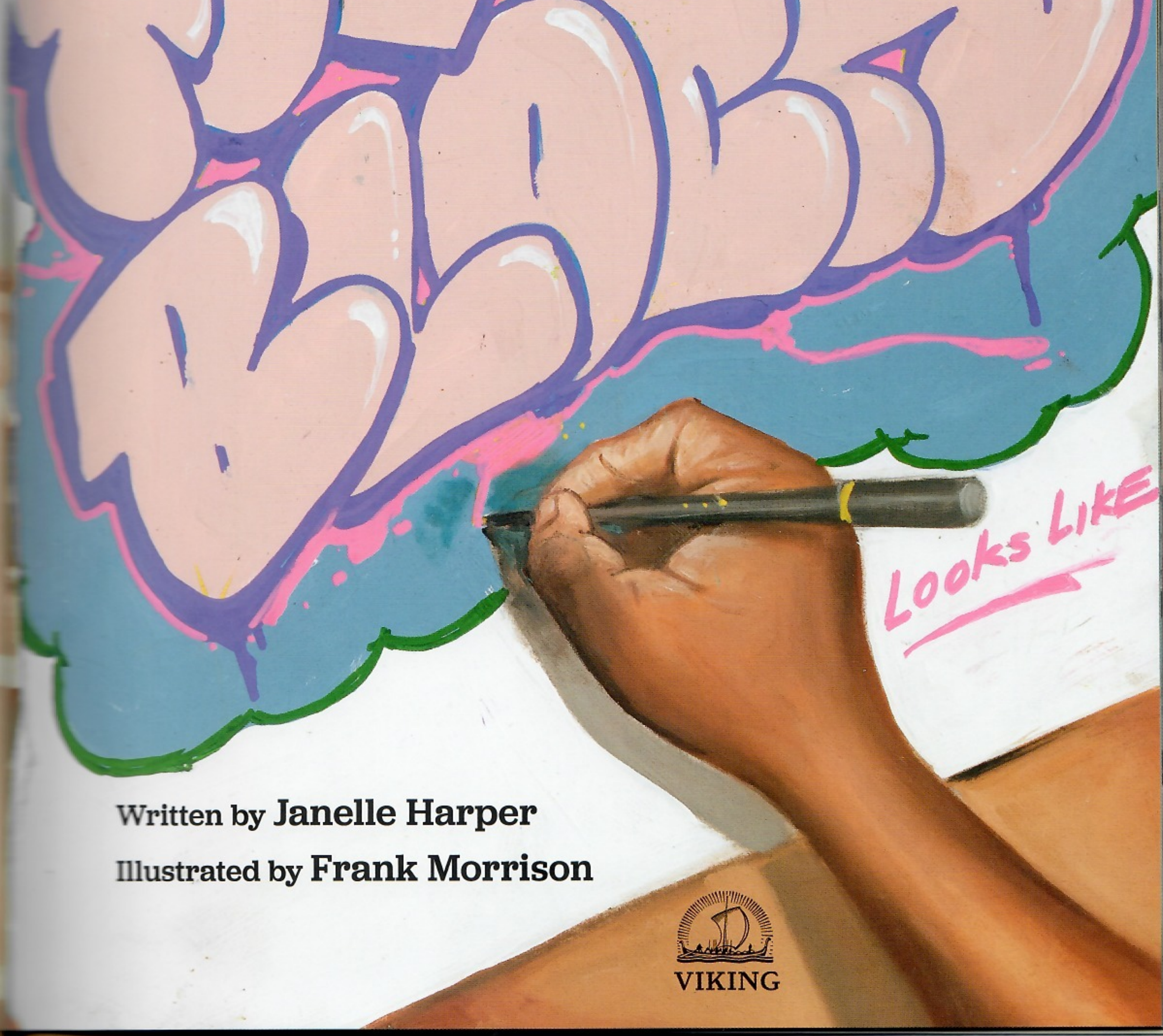
$18.99 USA
$24.99 CAN

My block looks like
a collision of cultures
a melting pot of cool
a burst of life
my favorite groove

An energetic and spare text that begs to be read aloud, *My Block Looks Like* recognizes the beauty of the bodegas, subways, and playgrounds that characterize everyday life in the Bronx and pays homage to the ways that its residents have shaped pop culture through music, visual art, and dance. This lyrical and proud picture book will leave kids with a reaffirming message to celebrate and uplift their communities, while reminding them that no matter how far away they may go, their block is still the coolest place they've ever been.

Age range: 4–8 years
Reinforced binding

Brush



Written by **Janelle Harper**

Illustrated by **Frank Morrison**

VIKING

My block looks like
the hustle and bustle
the heartbeat of the city
the quick, the slick, the grit, the wit
the coolest place I've ever been

forget what you heard
nothing like the TV
more than headlines
we sparkle under streetlamps

fitted hats and brand-new kicks
unmatched style full of finesse
head nods and daps, our special language
"YERRRRRR!" our loud hello

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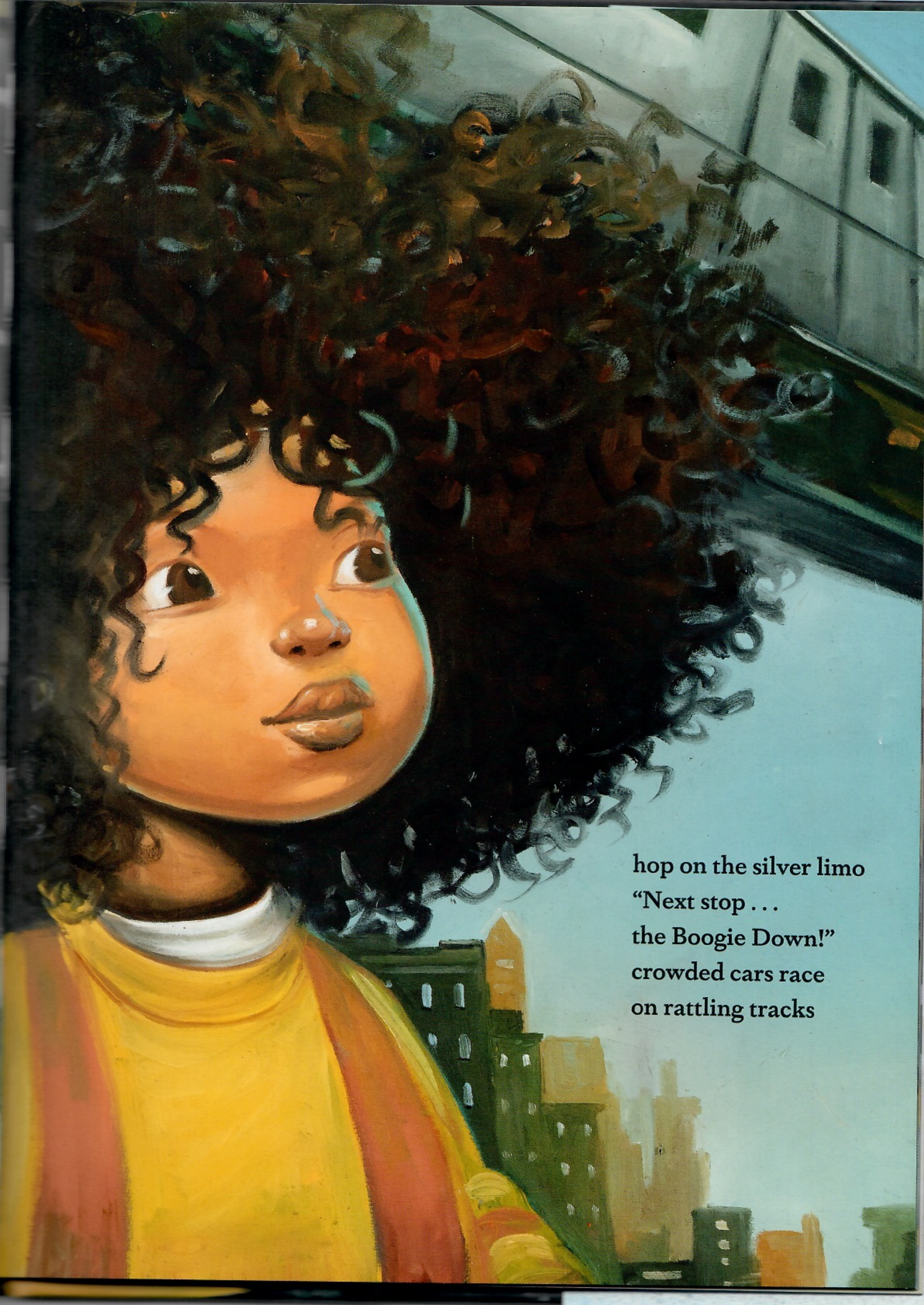


hop on the silver limo
"Next stop . . .
the Boogie Down!"
crowded cars race
on rattling tracks

"IT'S SHOWTIME!"
CLAP—CL-AP CLAP CLAP
CLAP—CL-AP CLAP CLAP
fancy footwork and death-defying stunts
we've got more talent than Hollywood

My block looks like
the Hip. the Hop. HIP-HOP
the birthplace of
aerosol masterpieces, lyrical wordplay,
and cardboard dance floors
our art soars across the world

chilling on the stoop
a gathering of brilliant minds
politicking and debating
the greatest mysteries of life

"Top five emcees?"
"Best rap record?"
"Pineapples on pizza?"
naaaah, please don't do that

"Meet me at the playground!"
the steady rhythm of double Dutch
gossip whispered from park benches
chasing after your school crush

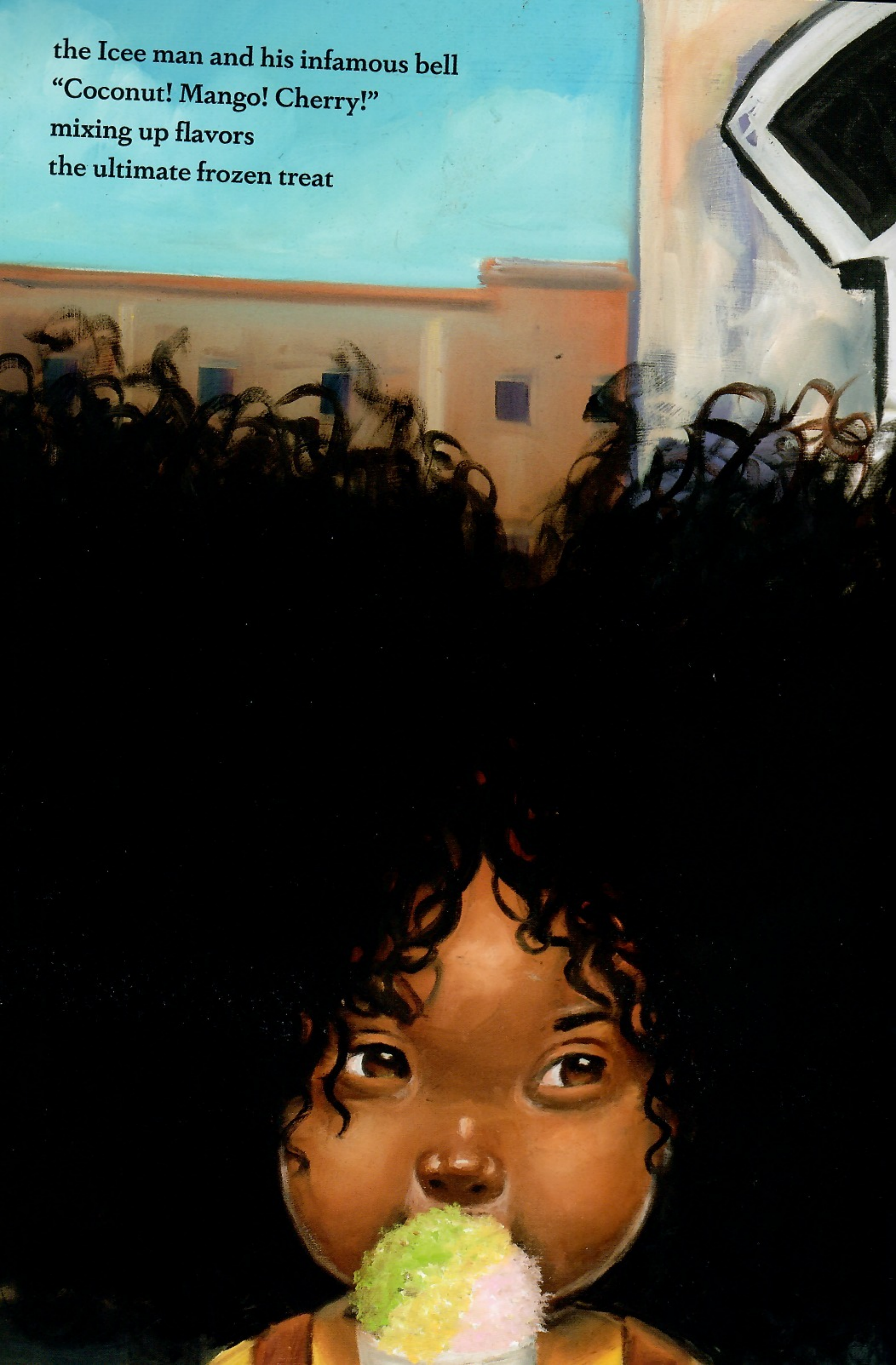
sliding by with ease
swings push us to new heights
monkey bars turn our world
upside down
tears flow from laughter

My block looks like

"Yo! Let me get a chopped cheese sandwich!"
bodegas—our favorite corner store
blasting salsa music
the snarky cat posted at the door

open hydrants cool the blacktop
summertime mischief
from sunup
to sundown

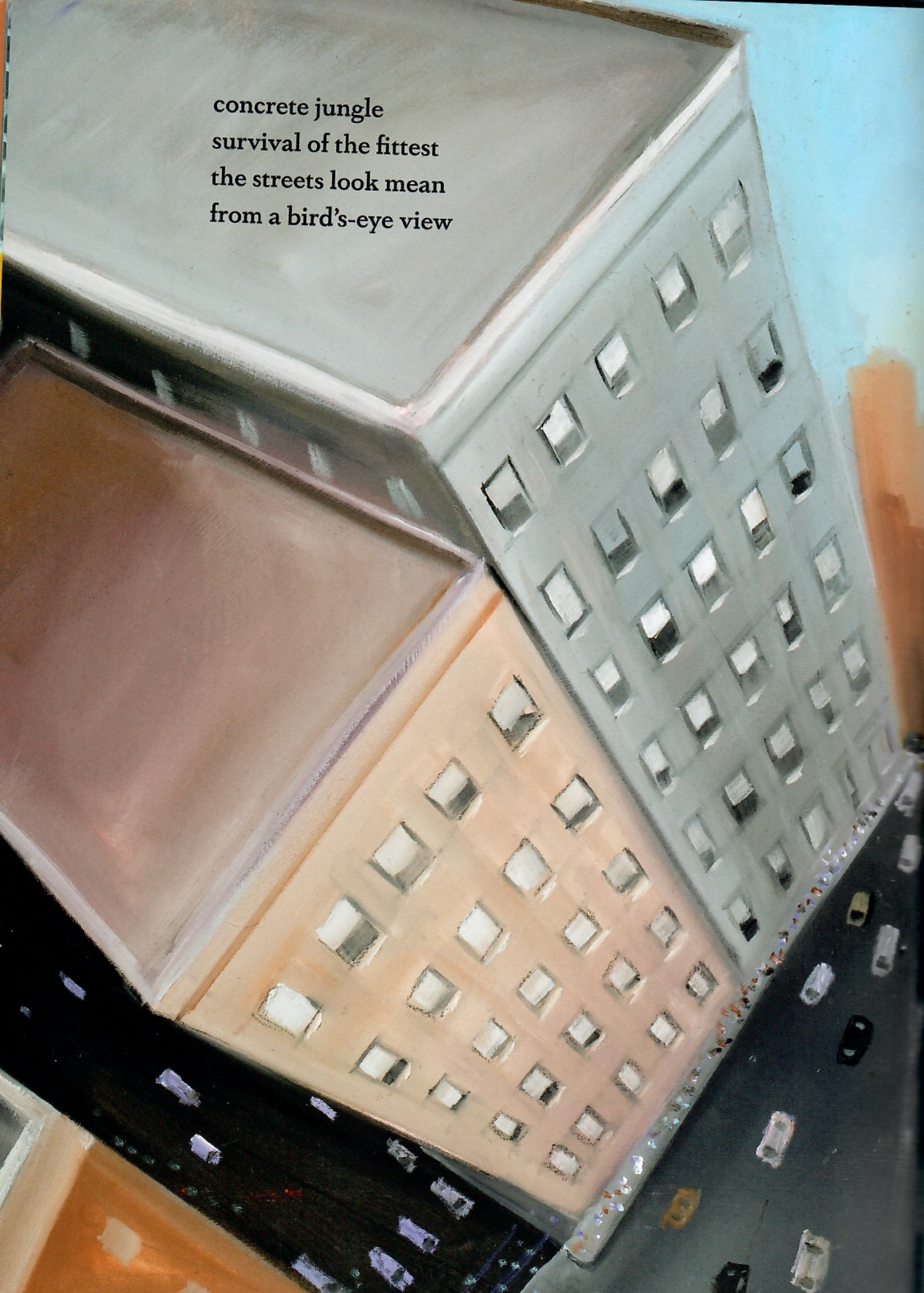
the Icee man and his infamous bell
"Coconut! Mango! Cherry!"
mixing up flavors
the ultimate frozen treat

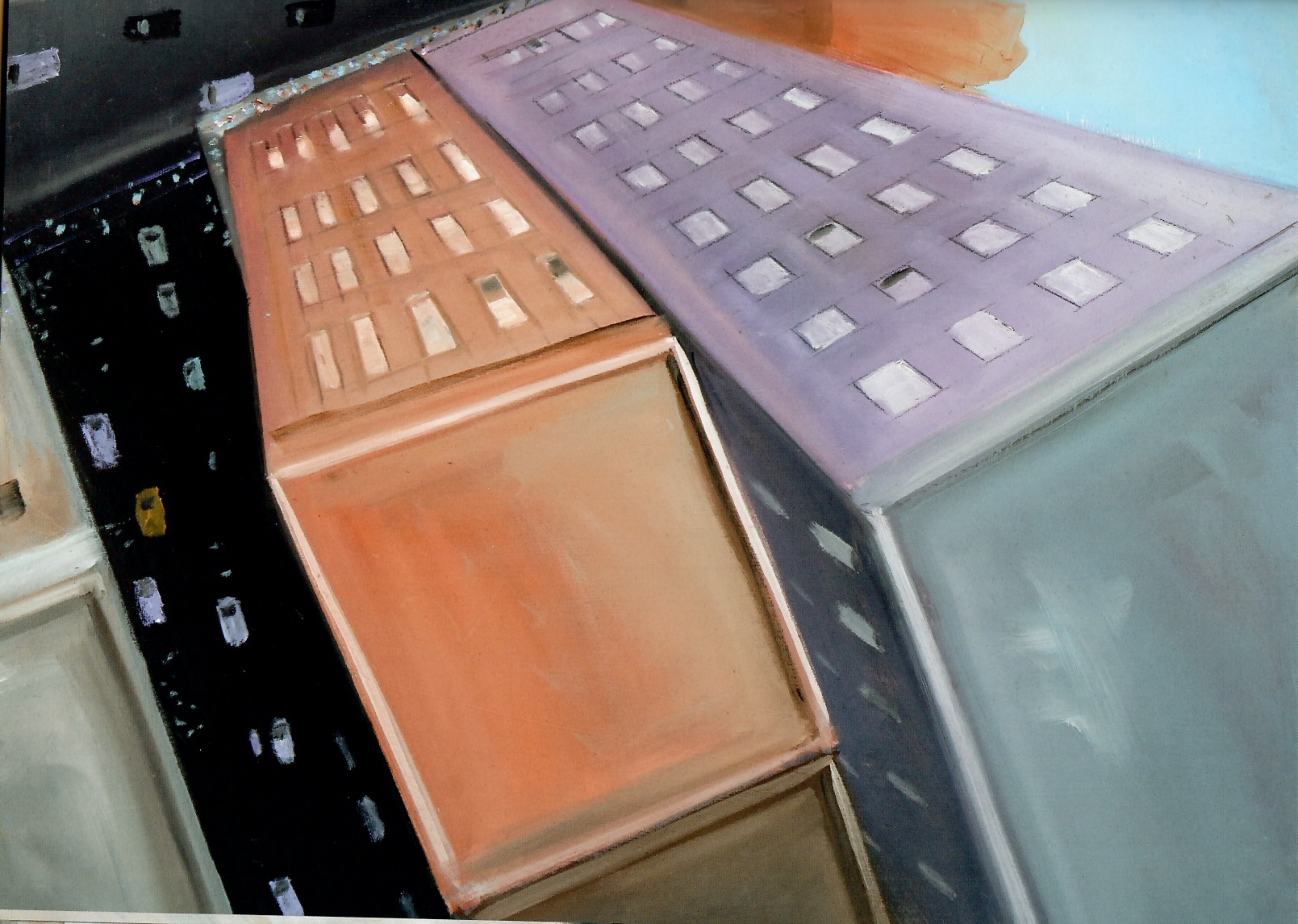


pickup games get us all hyped
squeaky sneakers
up and down the court
showing off who's got
the wickedest handle

undiscovered b-ball legends
crossovers, spin moves, and alley-oops
shooting nothing but buckets
the crowd goes wiiiiiiild

concrete jungle
survival of the fittest
the streets look mean
from a bird's-eye view





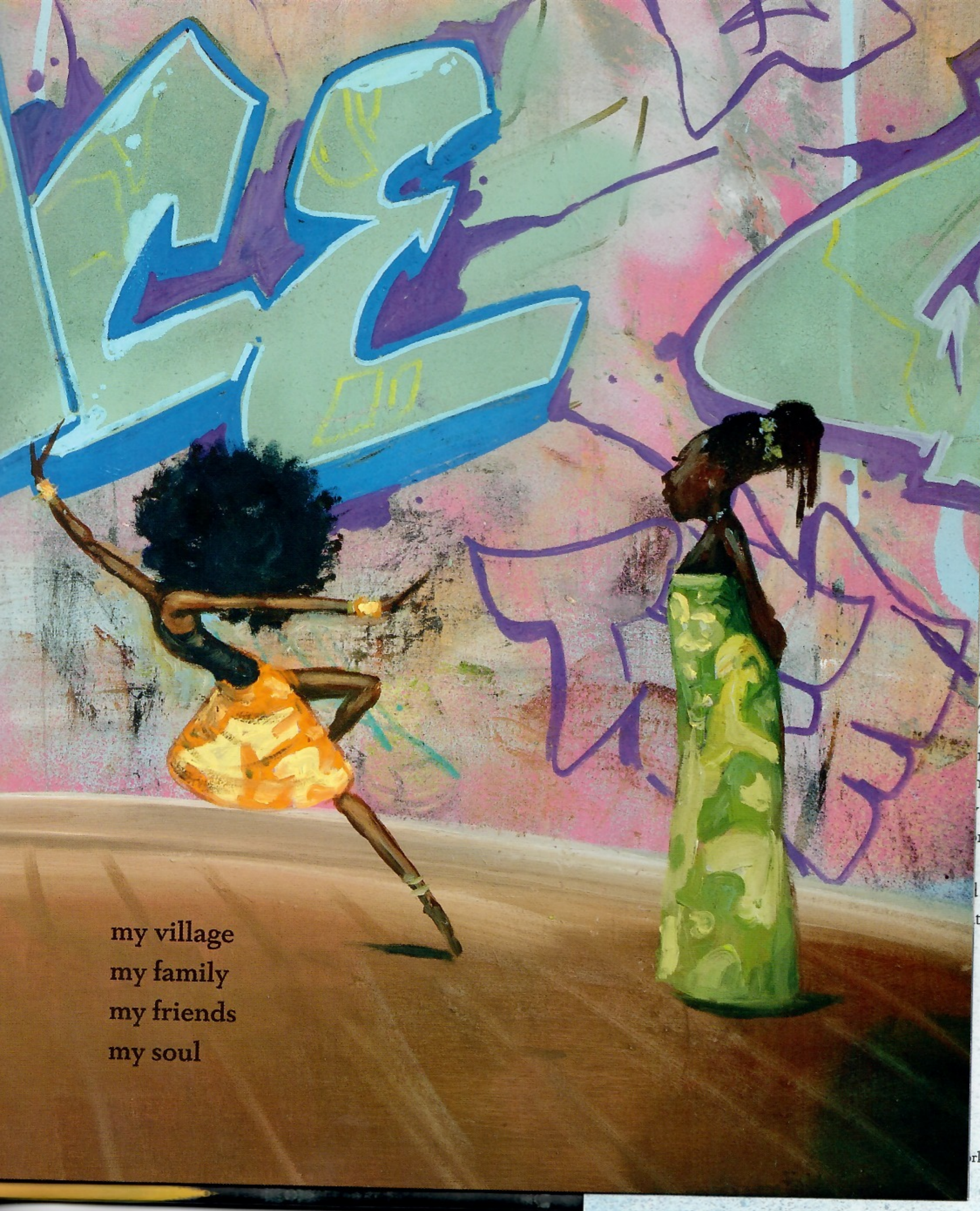
dreams rise higher than the smog
potholes can't trip us up
a brick-by-brick fortress
a Big Apple fairy tale

My block looks like

a collision of cultures
a melting pot of cool
a burst of life
my favorite groove

DANCE
STUDIO
AUDITION

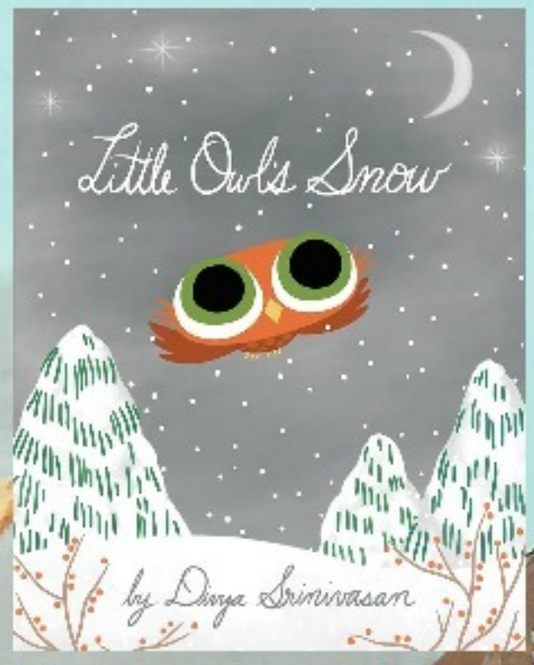
my city
my hood
my block
my home



my village
my family
my friends
my soul

some may doubt us
we block out all the noise

we keep it pushin'
we hold our heads up high



Little Owl's Amour

no matter what happens
I've seen it for myself

my block looks like

the coolest place
I've ever been.

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For the kids who sparkle
under streetlamps. —J. H.

To the youngest of my crew, Tiffani.
May your life be as dope as your step back jump shot
from the three-point line, nothing but net. —F. M.

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Janelle Harper is a Bronx native who proudly carries her New York accent anywhere she goes. She finds inspiration in city living and the diverse experiences of the African Diaspora. When she is not enjoying the hiddens gems of the Bronx, she is traveling and exploring new cultures. She is a proud veteran public school teacher who comes from a long line of educators. She is passionate about creating stories that reflect the children in her Bronx classroom and neighborhood. When she's not thinking about her vagina book, Janelle can often be found in her dance studio, blasting music, yelling "five-six-seven-eight," and preparing elaborate student productions. Visit her online at JanelleHarperAuthor.com.

Frank Morrison started his journey as a graffiti artist in New Jersey, tagging walls with spray paint. It wasn't until he visited the Louvre Museum in Paris with his dancing group that he realized painting was his true creative path. His work has been featured at Art Basel, SCOPE Art Show, and Red Dot Miami art fair, and shown at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City and the Mason Fine Art gallery in Atlanta, Georgia. He is the illustrator of over twenty children's books, including the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winners *Standing in the Need of Prayer* and *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*, the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award winner *Jazzy Miz Mozetta*, and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor books *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* and *Let the Children March*. Frank was a Society of Illustrators' Original Art Silver Medal Honoree two years in a row, for *The Roots of Rap* and *R-E-S-P-E-C-T*. His debut author-illustrated picture book is *Kick Push*. Visit him online at MorrisonGraphics.com. A graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design, and makes his home in Atlanta, Georgia with his family.

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A love letter to
the hustle, the bustle,
the joy, and the grit
of those who sparkle
under streetlamps

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